

2009 Schedule of Events

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park



Gap Cave

A two-hour adventure awaits as you explore Gap Cave with its majestic stalagmites, striking stalactites and shimmering flowstones. Step into the music room and listen for the whispers of a Civil War Soldier. Catch a glimpse of a little brown bat or a cave salamander. Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date. All tours meet at the Daniel Boone parking area.

Comfortable walking shoes and clothing are a must. This tour involves a 1.5 mile walk, and 183 steps must be negotiated within the cave. For the safety of all, no children under the age of five are permitted on the cave tour.

Adults - \$8.00

Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - \$4.00

Children five through twelve - \$4.00

January 1 - April 4

Weekends only at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

April 5 - May 22

Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.

Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

May 23 - September 7

Daily at 10:00 a.m. and
2:00 p.m.

September 8 - November 28

Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.
Weekends at 10:00 a.m.
and 2:00 p.m.

November 29 - December 31

Weekends only at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.



Hensley Settlement

Visit Hensley Settlement for a nostalgic look into early 20th century Appalachia. Meander down fence-lined lanes, peek into the blacksmith's shop, look into the springhouse or sit in the one-room school. In 1904, Sherman Hensley and Willie Gibbons joined forces to establish a homestead on the mountaintop. Using hand tools to split chestnut logs, the settlers began to build homes. Fences surrounded the cleared land creating pastures and garden plots. A thriving community soon emerged. The land, suitable for raising sheep and growing crops for liquid spirits, supported the community of twelve farmsteads for more than forty years.

Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date. All tours depart from the park visitor center.

For the one mile walk through the settlement, comfortable clothing and walking shoes are a must. Bring a light snack and drink.

Adults - \$10.00

Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - \$5.00

Children twelve and under - \$5.00

May 16 - October 31

Daily at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.



March 1

How the Challenges of Frontier Kentucky Life Shaped the Character of Abraham Lincoln

Listen to the stories of Abraham Lincoln as a young lad. Learn little known facts that influenced the making of this great man. Join Sandy Brue, Chief of Interpretation at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace, as she presents a glimpse into the childhood of the 16th President.

Visitor center auditorium at 2:00 p.m.

March 9

Tracing the Migration of Songs Between Scotland and Ireland to North America

As Scots and Ulster Scots emigrated to America, they carried with them a rich oral tradition of song and ballad singing. Join musician Sara Grey and her son Kieron Means as they trace the migration of these songs and share the impacts which they had on Appalachian music. This renowned mother/son team will expect you to enthusiastically chime in on choruses and refrains.

Workshop at the visitor center auditorium from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; concert from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Both are free of charge.

March 11

The Full Moon at Cumberland Gap

March brings the whispers of spring and the renewing of nature's wondrous cycle. As a full moon rises in the eastern sky, stroll with a ranger along the historic Wilderness Road. Uncover the visible and the obscure critters that make Cumberland Gap their home.

Thomas Walker parking area at 8:00 p.m.

March 14, 21 and 28

October 17, 24 and 31

November 7 and 14

Early Rise at the Pinnacle

Witness rays of light transforming the darkness into dawn. Watch as the fog flows over the Gap spilling into the valley floor. Listen for the call of the mourning dove. If you are a shutter bug or just love nature, here is your chance to view nature from 2,440 feet above the Gap floor.

The Pinnacle Overlook will be open at 6:00 a.m.

March 28

Interview with a Beaver

Experience a rare opportunity to learn about the ingenuity of the industrious beaver. Learn about his timber cutting skills. See his housing development. Discover the reasons why he has such a big tail.

Visitor center at 10:00 a.m.

April 9

Cumberland Gap By Moonlight

As a full moon illuminates the night sky creating a mysterious surrounding, walk with a ranger on the Wilderness Road. Be still ... listen to the night. Perhaps you will hear the spirits of those who came before.

Thomas Walker parking area at 8:00 p.m.

April 11, 12, 18, 25 and 26

Spring's Beauty Pageant

With the coming of spring, Mother Nature spreads her colorful apron upon the earth. Dazzling yellow wood sorrel, stunning violet liverwort and delicate pink lady slippers are but a few of the prism colored gems scattered along the landscape. With camera in hand, walk along the trails and find these rare wildflower treasure.



Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.; Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

April 25

Junior Ranger Civil War Hike

Hike with a ranger and experience a glimpse of the life of a Civil War soldier at Cumberland Gap. Hear stories of Morgan's retreat. Learn which armies occupied the Gap. Perhaps enlist your services for a day!

Thomas Walker parking area at 10:00 a.m.

May 8 - 10

Cumberland Gap Dulcimer Gathering

The beating of the drone stirs something deep within and carries you back to a bygone time. Listen to the enchanting melody of the dulcimer. Tap your feet to the exhilarating rhythm as the Wilderness Road Dulcimer Club and Friends shares songs of long ago.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m.

May 16

July 11

Hensley Settlement At Eventide

As eventide falls at Hensley Settlement, meander along the lane under a canopy of trees. Peek beyond a cabin door. Visit the schoolhouse or walk among the headstones in the peaceful cemetery. You never know what surprises may be waiting in the shadows!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED; can be made up to one month in advance

Adults - \$10.00

Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - \$5.00

Children twelve and under - \$5.00

Meet at the park visitor center at 7:00 p.m.

May 16

Hills of Color

Vibrant orange, stunning pink and flamboyant purple cover the peaks and valleys revealing the many facets of the jewels in nature. Flame azalea, rhododendron and mountain laurel are a few of the wildflowers accentuated on this moderate hike led by a ranger.

Thomas Walker parking area at 10:00 a.m.

May 17

A Shady, Wet World

Step into the shady wet world of a mountain stream community. Hidden beneath rocks, in streams and under logs, lurk fascinating creatures waiting to be discovered.

Sugar Run picnic area at 10:00 a.m.

May 23

For Old Time Sake

Take a trip down memory lane with Anndrena Belcher. Listen to adventurous tales and lonesome songs intricately woven together. Hear the music and be transported to the early years of Appalachia.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m.

May 30 - September 5

Evening Around the Campfire

Around the glowing embers of a campfire, tales of long ago begin to emerge. Learn about the lives of the early settlers traveling the Wilderness Road. Hear intriguing stories of Civil War soldiers during Morgan's retreat. Listen to the saga of women on the frontier. Learn intriguing tidbits about animals that live in the forest.

Every Saturday night at the Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m.

June 6

Junior Ranger Peddle-Rama

Bring your bicycles and join the fun on a leisurely bike ride along the Covered Bridge bike trail. Along the way, take a close look ... small and wondrous critters are waiting to be discovered.

Bike helmets are required.

Iron Furnace Parking area at 10:00 a.m.

June 6

Full Moon Hike

As night falls, the forest becomes elusive yet inviting. In the quietness, nocturnal animals awaken from their slumber. Imagine long ago when a Native American slipped silently through the Gap. Listen carefully ... is that a footstep ... or just the wind?

Thomas Walker parking area at 8:30 p.m.

June 6

July 25

August 1

Life On The Frontier

Whispers of yesteryear emerge as you come face to face with people from the 18th century. Witness their trials and triumphs as they go about their daily lives on the frontier. Smell the aroma of homemade stew or discover the art of making bullets.

Visitor center cabin 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 13

Foot Stomping Time

Who can resist an evening of pickin' and grinnin' that makes the heart sing, the feet stomp and the hands clap with delight! Join rangers for an evening of fun with the bluegrass style of Town Branch Bluegrass.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m.

June 27

Beach to Bluegrass: Places to Brake on Virginia's Longest Road

Author Joe Tennis unlocks the treasures to be discovered along Hwy 58, Virginia's long and winding road that links the sandy shores of the Atlantic to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

Visitor center auditorium at 2:00 p.m.

June 27

Stringing Along

Bring the family and join in the fun. Listen to the unique harmonies and wonderful blend of strings as Reel World String Band takes the stage with gusto. Sing along to the old-time music of Appalachia.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m.

July 4

Golden Anniversary Dedication Celebration

The July 4th, 1959 weekend was a buzz as local residents and dignitaries celebrated the dedication of the new Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. 50 years later, the excitement continues with the purchase of lands surrounding Fern Lake and the recently restored Wilderness Road Trail. Festivities galore will mark this day.

Activities will be at the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park visitor center.

July 18

Junior Ranger Outdoor Skills Adventure

Excitement awaits while learning the skills of outdoor camping. Learn how to build a fire safely. Discover plants that must be left alone. Learn how to find shelter in a storm.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 10:00 a.m.

August 7

Daniel Boone's Birthday Bash

Join us for a celebration of the 275th anniversary of Boone's birth. Walk through the Gap with Daniel Boone as he retraces his footsteps that helped transform the colonies into a nation. At the end of the journey, share in his gigantic birthday cake complete with 275 candles.

Daniel Boone parking lot at 7:30 p.m.

August 8

Junior Ranger Bike Peddle-Thon

Join the fun for a bike excursion along the Wilderness Road Trail. Enjoy the mountain air and watch for critters along the way. Just what lies ahead at the trail's end?

Bike helmets are required.

Gibson Station Rails to Trails parking area at 10:00 a.m.

August 14

Shooting Star Extravaganza

Summer night skies on Brush Mountain are amazing. Witness one of nature's most spectacular events. Gaze upward as meteors flash across the moonless sky. Caravan with park rangers to Hensley Settlement and observe the extraordinary Perseid meteor shower. Vehicles must be front- or 4-wheel drive.

Meet at the visitor center at 5:30 p.m.

August 22

Bugle Blows at The Gap

Hear tales of Civil War soldiers stationed at Cumberland Gap. Tap your toes to the sensational strings of the hammered dulcimer. Listen as Jim Taylor sings haunting ballads of Billy Yank and Johnny Reb.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m.

September 7

From Ireland to America

Catch the rhythmic beat of the banjo. Feel the stir in your heart as Ted Olson sings an Irish folk song. Come...hear stories of early settlers and their music.

Visitor center auditorium at 2:00 p.m.

September 19

Junior Ranger Signing of the Constitution

What is the constitution? Who were James Madison and Thomas Jefferson? Learn about the founding fathers and the signers of the constitution. Put your name beside theirs on this important document.

Visitor center at 10:00 a.m.

September 12 - 13

Life In The Day of A Frontier Woman

Stroll back in time when a women's work was never done. Glimpse into the life of women on the frontier struggling to provide for a family. Learn everyday chores of cooking on an open fire, washing clothes and hunting game for food.

Located at Virginia's Wilderness Road State Park

October 9 - 11

Civil War At Cumberland Gap

The face of the Civil War comes into perfect view as you meet Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and others that played a part in this American conflict. Join us for a period ball, ladies tea, music and more.

Call for additional information and reservations. Friday, Saturday and Sunday activities begin at 10:00 a.m.

October 31

Hollow Evening with Mother Nature

Join Mother Nature and a cast of characters for an evening of discovery and fun. You'll be surprised at the treats which nature has to offer. Meet at the visitor center flag pole in your favorite nature costume between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

November 11

Retiring Old Glory

Old Glory remains a symbol of independence, hope, pride and love of country. Flags, once brilliant and glorious and now tattered and torn, must be retired with dignity and respect. Come... witness the solemn ceremony as Old Glory is laid to rest.

Visitor center parking area at 5:00 p.m.

November 21

Owl Prowl

Join park rangers for an adventure into the forest for an unforgettable encounter with a nocturnal predator. Learn incredible facts about the owl. Listen closely... in the stillness, you may hear his call.

Visitor center at 7:00 p.m.

Additional programs may be added throughout the year.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park , P O Box 1848, Middlesboro, KY 40965
(606) 248- 2817, extension 1075 or www.nps.gov/cuga

